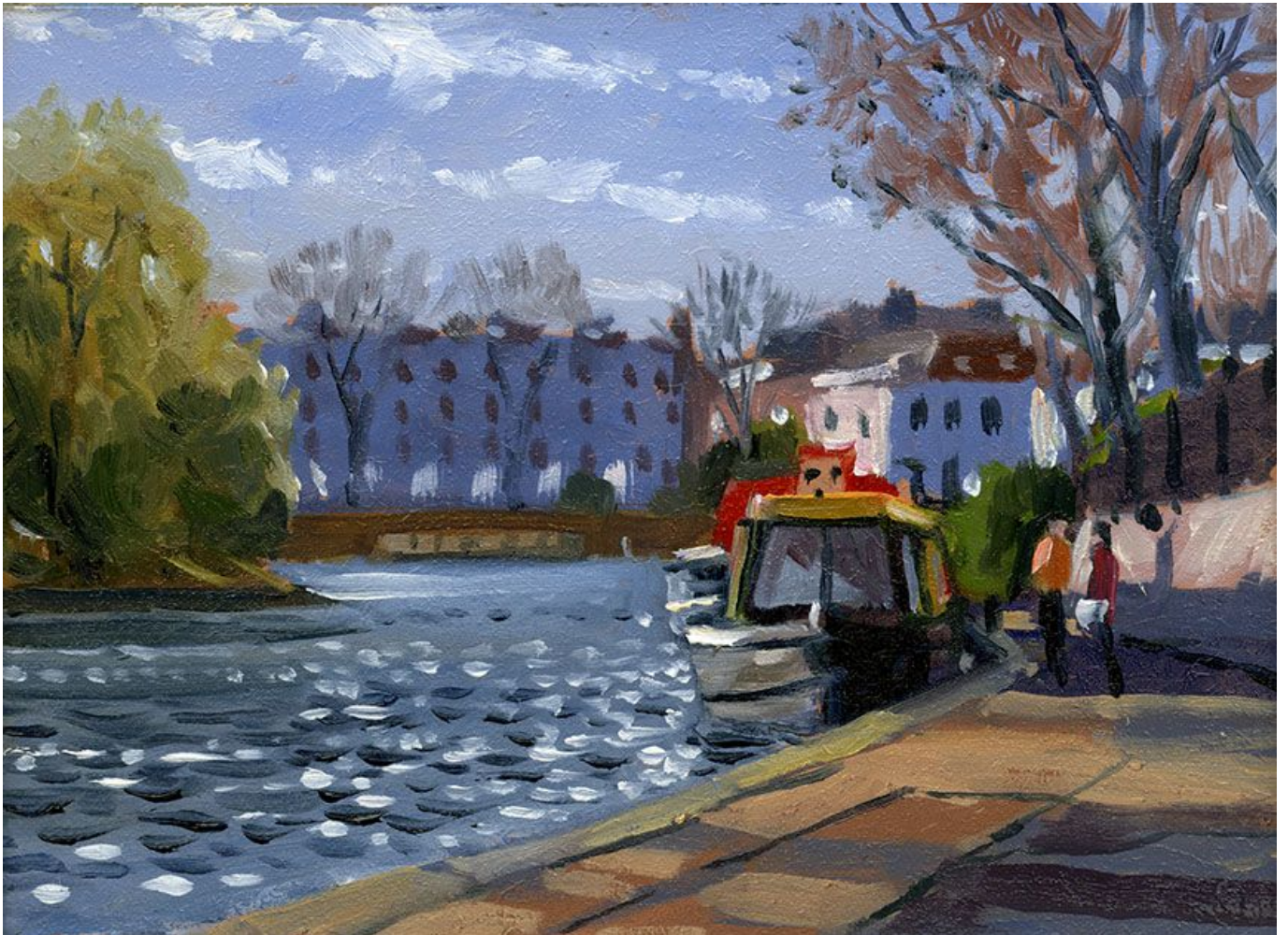


The Primrose Hill Primary School Floating Classroom



Information & Consultation Brochure Update June 2018

Please email any comments, or if you would like to make a donation, contact us at
Admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk

The Project

As a local primary school embedded in the community for 134 years, our sole focus is the education of Camden children. Primrose Hill Primary School is located on the Regent's Canal. We wish to obtain and develop a canal side barge classroom which we can use as a learning space. We have our own access gate to the towpath in our playground. The Canal & River Trust have granted us a mooring outside the school.

This would be a feature unique among London schools, and we hope it would become a beacon of excellence for Camden. This would primarily be to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) and the local environment with the canal as a focus for the whole school. The project would allow us to focus on transport and the history of the canal which is such an important part of local history.

The Primrose Hill Floating Classroom would also provide a space to further develop our links with parents, as a venue for workshops, creative projects and mobile reading sessions. It would give families who do not normally use the canal the encouragement to do so, developing curiosity about and appreciation for the waterways and local environment.

View of the school from afar



The Barge In Use



Along the Regent's Canal

Our priority is to create a space for the children. It would take time to develop provision and facilities but the children can also be part of this development phase, working on design and decoration.

Once established, the barge may be used for other groups or day trip cruising rentals to offset running and maintenance costs. But as an educational rather than a commercial project, we would be unlikely to be able to generate opportunities for additional income in the first year or so.

This is **not** going to be a facility which will be used all day every day like a normal classroom. It will however have a regular timetable and be used throughout the year; most likely when the weather is good. There will therefore be times when the barge is not in use.

Any use will be overseen by strict health and safety procedures and prior risk assessment. It will be looked after and monitored by school staff.

The Aim

- To obtain custom built 12m length canal barge to be moored outside the school
- Our £80k needed will hopefully be achieved through fundraising and donations
- There would be a design competition for children to share their ideas; the top five would be created in 3D so ideas can be judged carefully.
- A competition to Name The Barge would begin
- Once a design agreed, working alongside our Specialist Art Teacher and our contractors, the children and families would be involved in the renovation and creation of the Primrose Hill Floating Classroom.

View adjacent to the school



The Curriculum

The curriculum would be adapted to include The Canal as a whole school topic throughout the year, and adapted to suit each year group. The floating classroom would also be a learning space to teach the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths curriculum with a focus on transport and the local environment.

Nursery & Reception	Years 1 & 2	Years 3 & 4	Years 5 & 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Map making ● Barge models ● Local environment & seasonal change ● Minibeasts along the towpath ● What lives in the water? ● Barge trip to London Zoo ● Canal café work - making cakes and refreshments ● Planters and shrubs ● Label and sign making ● Make and record a jingle using sounds along the canal ● Big books on the Canal in Camden ● End of Year Book Art Sale on the barge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volume & Capacity Maths ● What can you grow on a barge? ● Living memory – changes over time ● Sculptures – bridges ● How could this environment be in danger? ● Maps from Camden to Paddington ● Make a wind chime ● Canal diary writing ● The story Hodgeheg on the barge ● What would a Royal Barge look like? ● Floating & Sinking – Barge models which move ● Design your own barge home ● How do barges move? ● Eco-Warriors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The canal network – Regents Canal ● How does the Canal meet the Thames? ● Advertisements for the website ● Photography project – canal art ● Furnishing making – cushions, mats etc. ● Class Trip – posters, selling tickets, hosting ● History of the Canal ● Safety aboard the barge ● Forces ● A new Anthony Browne inspired barge adventure ● Sleeping aboard! ● Performance Poetry aboard ● Effects of light on art ● Interviews with users of the Canal – podcasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructional writing – locks ● 'Save the World' focus – pollution and energy ● Insulators – keeping warm ● Camden then and now ● Make a barge lamp ● Emergency services ● Articles for 'Towpath' Magazine ● The decline of the Canal industry ● Singalong concert on the towpath ● Barge blog ● Make an ordnance survey map ● Barge mystery stories ● Photography – Along the Canal ● Primrose Hill TV piece ● Canal wallpaper making

Analysis of the Project Implementation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give the children and community of Primrose Hill Primary School an opportunity to design and create an unusual and exciting learning space• To create a unique feature for the school and for Camden as an Local Authority• To develop a detailed understanding of the local canal network and history of the canal, its impact on local trade and a focus on transport, engineering, innovation and pride in their school's resources• Children will develop responsibility for running projects• Support from the Canal & Waterways Trust Local Authority and School Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early press interest raised some local anxiety about extra-school usage• Project has some limitations in terms of mooring and running costs• Ongoing maintenance and insurance may be costly but this would be recouped by sponsorship, over achieved donations or future lettings income. Cost analysis has been undertaken• Anyone taking passengers aboard their boat needs to be a qualified skipper as per Small Passenger Boat Coat• Security of the barge when not in use• Not all feedback from the school community is favourable

What the children say:

"It will be great to have our barge to learn; other schools will be jealous" - Y6

"I'd like to have a sleepover on it" - Y4

"We can learn about engines and steering" - Y1

"I'm looking forward to designing how it looks" - Y3

Next Steps

1. Complete requirements for the Canal & Waterways Trust
2. Complete planning application and circulate information to local community for feedback
3. Reach our £80k fundraising target



This information booklet is for the local Primrose Hill community and we would be grateful for any helpful comments or suggestions with regard to the project.

We hope everyone will support this valuable educational project at a time when creativity, innovation and understanding of nature preservation needs to be encouraged, more than ever, among children and families of all backgrounds.